THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government has enlarged the investor category in the news and current affairs segment of the print media to include foreign direct investment by NRIs, PIOs and portfolio investments by recognized FIIs subject to the overall ceiling of 26 percent. It has also been decided to allow facsimile editions of foreign newspapers in India without access to Indian content or Indian advertisements.

(c) and (d) The Government is in the process of carrying out amendments in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. This being a policy matter, details and time frame cannot be stated at this stage.

Uplinking policy for foreign TV channels

52. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a group of Ministers to study uplinking policy for foreign television channels;

(b) if so, by when the GOM would submit its report;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have issued revised guidelines for foreign investment in television news channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the proposal for review of Uplinking Policy and finalise its recommendations within two weeks.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Piracy in film industry

53. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the film Industry has suffered heavy losses due to the prevalent menance of unchecked piracy; and